

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

GRAHAM COUNTY



Mrs. Ann C. Wesley, Assistant Home Agent

March 11, 1957 to May 1, 1957

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A. Narrative Summary

The assistant home agent was assigned to Graham County on March 11, 1957, after a three-week period of general orientation in the State Home Economics Extension Office. This three-week period included the in-service training conference, March 5-11, 1957, with emphasis on 4-H club work, program planning, and the matter of reporting.

The purpose of the assignment to Graham County as assistant home agent was orientation of new home agents on a county level by actual work in a county under experienced personnel. This work included orientation into the following phases of Extension Service work:

1. Office procedures and organization
2. County contacts
3. 4-H Club Work
4. Homemakers' club work
5. Method demonstrations
6. Special project work
7. Writing news articles
8. Use of radio as a practical medium for promotion of Extension Service work
9. Writing reports

B. County Situation

Graham County is in the Southeastern part of the state of Arizona. It is chiefly an agricultural and ranching county. Some mining activity is found, although this is secondary. The San Carlos Indian Reservation is found in the northern half of the county.

The main agricultural activity is found around the county seat of Safford, and towns adjoining. The Gila River runs through this area. The population is largely Mormon in religion and a good cooperative attitude exists between the Extension Service and the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

C. Extension Organization and Planning

1. Organization

Graham County has three organized Homemaker Extension Clubs, with the Safford, Thatcher, and Klondyke communities represented. These clubs are members of the Graham County homemakers' association which meets as a body semi-annually - in the spring and in the fall. The fall meeting is devoted to program planning for the year.

2. County Council

The spring meeting was held on May 1, 1957 with 16 members present. At this meeting, members voted to create a council to conduct the business of the association, this council to be composed of officers of the association. At this meeting, Miss Jean M. Stewart, State Leader of Home Economics Extension, led the discussion as to the role of the Extension Service and the work of the home agent in the county. It is the duty of this association to serve as a guide to the home agent in her work by keeping her informed as to the needs of the county and general trends which relate to her work.

3. National Home Demonstration Week

National Home Demonstration Week was observed by the Safford Homemakers Club with a window display of methods of making the home more attractive, a current project. This display stressed the proper use of color and the use of draperies in home improvement.

4. Country Life Conference

Graham County had no representatives at Country Life Conference this year. Much newspaper and radio publicity was given this conference. However, the women felt that they could not leave their homes at this time of year, due to their farm and ranch work.

D. Home Management and Home Furnishings

I. Making the Home More Attractive

The homemaker clubs in Graham County have had "Making the Home More Attractive" as their spring 1957 project in the field of home management and home furnishings. The project was divided into four phases:

1. Color as a tool in home improvement
2. Making the home more attractive by proper furniture arrangements
3. Making the home more attractive by use of draperies
4. Proper use of accessories as a factor in making the home more attractive

Miss Grace Ryan, State Specialist in this field conducted a leader training meeting on February 21, 1957 in Safford, at which time material was given to the leaders on the above subjects, except the lesson on color which was given by the agent earlier in the year. The leaders in turn presented the lesson on furniture arrangement at their March meetings, draperies at their April meetings, and proper use of accessories at the May meetings.

II. News Releases

In connection with the home improvement project, the assistant agent wrote two information articles for publication in the GRAHAM COUNTY GUARDIAN. These were on making the home more attractive by correct furniture arrangement and on the use of color in room decoration.

E. Clothing

The clothing program in the county has stressed a clothing workshop for young homemakers of the Pima, Thatcher, and Safford areas. This workshop was the result of requests to the home economics Extension Service for a method demonstration workshop stressing unit construction of clothing. Eighteen women enrolled at the first meeting on March 12, 1957. The project was set up to encompass five meetings at which time the agent would construct a blouse and skirt showing Extension recommendations on each phase of the construction process. The women were instructed to follow through at home in actually constructing a blouse and skirt according to methods taught in the workshop meetings.

The meetings were set up as follows:

First meeting - Pattern selection, adjusting patterns; marking and cutting; fitting; selection of suitable fabrics

Second meeting - Stay stitching; dart construction; tying threads by machine; meaning of grain perfect; collar construction, and inner lining

Third meeting - Attaching a collar and sleeve into a garment

Fourth meeting - How to put a zipper into a skirt, and how to put a band on a skirt

Fifth meeting - Proper methods of putting a hem into a skirt

In connection with the above project the agent held one extra meeting for beginners in sewing at which individual help in fitting their patterns, marking and cutting their materials was given to the homemakers.

The home agent in charge conducted the clothing workshop. The assistant home agent helped wherever she was needed, but had no part in the demonstrations. The assistant agent gave individual help where needed.

Observations: This workshop was very successful. Attendance ranged from nine to eighteen and the homemakers felt that it provided them with very workable methods in which they actually learned by doing.

F. Foods

The assistant home agent presented the June lesson to the Aravaipa Homemakers' Club which is located in the Klondyke Community. This lesson was on summer meals which had been prepared for Greenlee County.

A demonstration on the preparation of Cuban chicken was given. This recipe was used to stress the use of fresh fruits and vegetables in summer meal planning. (It also brought to them a new method of using chicken, which is plentiful at this season and of which most ranches have a plentiful supply in their freezers.

As a result of this demonstration, the recipe has been used with much success by several church groups in the Thatcher area.